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**NOTICE AND SUMMARY OF
EX PARTE PRESENTATION**

February 24, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Portals II, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 23, 2005, Jeff Lanning, and I, on behalf of the United States Telecom Association (USTA), along with Rob Binder of Citizens/Frontier Telephone (by phone), a USTA member company, met with Daniel Gonzalez, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Kevin Martin, regarding the above-referenced matter.

The purpose of this meeting was to urge the Commission to strengthen the criteria to be certified as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) and receive federal universal service support. In particular, USTA made the following points: (i) the designation of multiple ETCs for receipt of high-cost support has a significant impact on preservation of federal universal service funding; (ii) the Commission has the authority to and should impose mandatory requirements by which states must assess ETC applicants; (iii) additional ETCs in rural areas should only be designated following a rigorous public interest test, based on strengthened standards; (iv) additional ETCs should be designated at a study area level and should be required to serve the entire study area; and (v) all ETCs should certify annually their use of universal service funds and their compliance with all designation requirements.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules, this letter is being filed electronically with your office.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. Olson", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

James W. Olson
Vice President Law and General Counsel

cc: Daniel Gonzalez